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SOURCE Minju Sinbo.

SOUTH KOREAN PRESS REPORTS PURGES AND
 FACTIONAL STRIFE IN NORTH KOREA

[Numbers in the parentheses refer to the appended characters.]

According to the South Korean paper, Minju Sinbo, dated 5 June 1953, the North Korean refugees in Pusan have reported that intellectuals and important leaders in North Korea, including Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Pak Hon-yong (1), have been purged. The same paper also quoted another source as saying that the purges are the result of the struggle for power between the pro-Soviet and the pro-Chinese factions which has become serious recently.

The refugees said that Pak Hon-yong was discharged as Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister and expelled from the Korean Labor [Communist] Party early this year. Pak, one of the founders of the Korean Communist Party 20 years ago, was leader of the so-called South Korean Labor Party until he moved to North Korea.

The refugees also reported that Chu Yong-ha (2), Vice-Minister of Communications, had been dismissed from office and expelled from the party. Previous to this, Chu was demoted to Vice-Minister of Communications from Ambassador to the Soviet Union on the suspicion of having expressed anti-Soviet sentiments to the Korean students studying in the USSR.

Quoting the same sources, the paper revealed that Yi Sung-yop (3) was also expelled from the party and dismissed as chairman of the People's Inspection Committee. Realizing his danger, Yi Sung-yop tried to escape to South Korea but was caught and imprisoned. Yi once served as Minister of Justice and, after 25 June [1950], as Mayor of Seoul, i.e., chairman of the Seoul People's Committee.

Based on refugee reports, the Minju Sinbo estimated that over 30 noted authors have been purged for writing reactionary literature. The refugees stated further that the government has ordered the deletion of all works by

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the purged writers which were included in old textbooks. The fact that Yim Hwa (4) and Yi T'ae-chun (5) were among the purged writers, the paper continued, has been confirmed by reports in the No Dong Sinmun [the official organ of the Korean Labor Party.]

The same South Korean paper reported that according to another source the purges are closely linked with the question of the Korean truce, that is, they are the result of a power struggle between the pro-Soviet faction which advocates continuation of war, and the pro-Chinese faction which seeks the ending of the war.

According to the paper, the war group is led by Ho Ka-i (6), a Soviet citizen, who is Vice-Premier and chief secretary of the Korean Labor Party. The truce-advocating group is led by Ch'oe Yong-kon (7) of the Yen-an faction, a deputy commander in chief of the so-called People's Army and who was recently promoted to vice-marshal.

CHARACTERS

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| 1. | 朴憲永 |
| 2. | 朱寧夏 |
| 3. | 李承輝 |
| 4. | 李泰俊 |
| 5. | 林和 |
| 6. | 許可異 |
| 7. | 崔庸健 |

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